



The Spectacle

From the Office Down the Hall

Convergence

As you read this, it is entirely possible that you may feel—just a niggling hint—that you have read this article before somewhere. As Yogi Berra said in one of my favorite quotes: “It’s déjà vu all over again!” which seems to be a side effect of working at a historic place. I think one of the oddest things about history, and the study and discussion of history (as we do here at Arlington House), is this recurring sense of repeating history, historical coincidence and even historical convergence, the meeting of past events in Robert E. Lee’s or Custis’ life with stories on the radio as we drive to work or, in my case this month, my upcoming vacation to Portland, Oregon.

In unrelated work, *Newsweek* reporter Stephen Levy and *NPR* reporter Steve Inskeep investigated coincidences. They found that mathematicians claim it is all our own fault, that people seek order from chaos and form coincidences from false patterns that do not intrinsically exist. Dr. Temple Grandin, an expert in animal behavior who is also autistic, suggested the same thing when she said that most people do not see the obvious world as it is because they are seeking larger patterns—something animals and autistic people apparently do not do.

There is, of course, another possible explanation: M-String theory. Einstein predicted how the cosmos worked with his Theory of Relativity and helped lay the groundwork for sub-atomic behavior that later theorists developed into Quantum Mechanics (Heisenberg, a founder of Quantum Mechanics, developed the “uncertainty principle” in 1927, an idea that,



Old Amphitheater - Memorial Day 2005

coincidentally, seems to describe a lot of historical research, too). But no one could figure out how it all worked together. That is, until there was M-String Theory.

Explaining String Theory is a bit like telling your wife why the new home theater system is a good thing when you only went to Sears for a \$100 TV. There are lots of remote controls and pixels involved that made perfect sense when the salesman was talking, but the finer points escape you later. There are 10, or maybe 11 (or in some versions 26) dimensions in the world according to String Theory (not just the 3 or 4 comfy ones we normally associate with toast and waiting in line at the DMV), not-to-mention a plethora of parallel universes. In String Theory it is

entirely possible for the universe where the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company began on July 4th, 1828 (inspiring *The Rail Road*, perhaps the best play by Custis) to sit, in parallel fashion, alongside ours where I will take a train from Seattle to see fireworks this coming Independence Day. And is it merely coincidence that Custis’ first play, *Indian Prophecy*, an apparently appalling work that nonetheless served as an important inspiration to the American theater, premiered on the Fourth of July...1827, exactly one hundred years before Heisenberg scratched his head? It was also in 1827 that mathematician Augustin-Louis Cauchy, a common household name today, developed the “calculus of residues” which

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Significant Historic Events in July

Mid- July, 1837

Lt. Lee traveled to St. Louis to supervise the clearing of the Mississippi harbor there. His traveling companion and subordinate on the project was Second Lieutenant Montgomery C. Meigs, a recent West Point graduate. On the way, Lee stopped in Baltimore to see the Washington war tents and other Arlington relics at the museum to which Mr. Custis had loaned them.

July 1-3, 1863

(Battle of Gettysburg)

On July 1, victory went to the confederates, who held the town when Lee arrived.

Despite Lee's wish, Cemetery Hill was not attacked and opportunity was lost.

On July 2, Lee ordered Longstreet's corps to attack the United States Army's left, but Longstreet opposed the plan, and there were delays. Confederate attacks were not properly coordinated, and United States troops held Little Round Tip. Yet at the end of the day neither army had made any appreciable gain.

On July 3, Lee attempted a massive attack on Meade's center, the infamous Pickett's Charge. The assault was a disastrous failure. As the Confederates retreated, Lee could say only, "All this has been my fault." Nearly one third of the Confederates' 65,000 man invasion force were casualties at the end of the battle, including 2592 killed.

July 2, 1899

Brigadier General Horatio Gouveneur Wright, former Chief of Army Engineers, died. He was buried on the lawn in front of Arlington House. Although Wright (b. March 6, 1820) participated in several engagements during the Civil War, notably the defense of Washington during the attack by Jubal Early's forces in July 1864, he is perhaps best known for completing the Washington Monument in 1884.

July 4, 1825

George Washington Parke Custis

inaugurated a tradition of Forth of July celebrations at Arlington Spring. A large number of guests were invited to take dinner at a long table in the shade of the Washington war tents. Custis would usually speak on some aspect of the struggle for freedom around the world. In 1825, Custis spoke about Lafayette, who was continuing his tour of the nation after having visited Arlington the previous January. He praised Simon Bolivar, the liberator of South America. But most of his speech concerned the independence for Ireland of which he was a consistent proponent.

July 7, 1804

George Washington Parke Custis, 23, and Mary Lee "Molly" Fitzhugh, 16, were married in the Fitzhugh town house on Oronoco Street, Alexandria. The Saturday evening ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Davis, who had officiated at the wedding of Nelly and Lawrence Lewis five years before and who had comforted Martha Washington as she lay dying.

July 10, 1829

Ann Hill Carter Lee, mother of Robert E. Lee, died at Ravensworth. Her son had nursed her in the last illness and was at her side when she died. He then cared for Nat, an elderly house slave left by his mother to Lee's sister Mildred.

July 12, 1835

Mary Lee Custis, second child and first daughter of Robert and Mary Lee was born at Arlington. Mrs. Lee developed a serious pelvic infection and was confined to bed for almost four months.

July 15, 1852

Eleanor "Nellie" Custis Lewis (1779-1852), sister of George Washington Parke Custis, died at Audley, the home of her daughter. She was 74 years old. George Washington Parke Custis thus became the last surviving child of John Parke Custis and one of the last members of the Mount Vernon household. Since Robert E. Lee was at home, he

probably attended the funeral service with his family at Mount Vernon.

July 17, 1853

Robert E. Lee and his daughters Mary and Annie, kneeling together at the altar rail, were confirmed at Christ Church [Episcopal] by Bishop John Johns. Lee had a religious upbringing, but he had not joined the church. Though there "is nothing to indicate any spiritual upheaval" in Lee's life, it is probable that the Mexican War and the recent death of Mrs. Custis "bought the great questions of faith closer to him." Lee was 46 years old, Mary eighteen and Annie fourteen.

July 21, 1861

(First Battle of Manassas: Bull Run)

The first major battle of the Civil War was a Confederate victory. United States forces under Gen. Irvin McDowell—who had made his headquarters at Arlington—were routed and fled back to Washington and their encampments on the Arlington Estate. Lee, who was serving as military advisor to President Davis, remained in Richmond at Davis' command. But a fourth of the victorious army had been raised and put in the field at Lee's direction, and he had a large hand in fashioning the strategy that made victory possible.

July 24, 1838

George Washington Parke Custis gave an oration at the commencement of Georgetown College in Washington. Custis, a vigorous supporter of religious freedom, was an honored friend of the Jesuits who administered Georgetown College.

July 28, 1812

While defending a friend and freedom of the press, Henry Lee, father of Robert E. Lee, was set upon by a Baltimore mob and so severely injured that he was "weak", crippled, and disfigured, doomed to invalidism for the remaining six years of his life.

Area Special Events

July 1

Special "History at Sunset" program, "King of Battle: Artillery at Malvern Hill," at the battlefield, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Free. 7 pm. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

Special Fredericksburg (VA) NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "A Forgotten Place Newly Discovered: Catherine Furnace of the Wellford Farm" meets at Stop 8 on the Chancellorsville battlefield. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

July 1-3

Reenactment, big annual anniversary event in Gettysburg, PA. Includes living history, lectures and military and civilian demonstrations throughout. Battles each day. Gates open 8:30 am each day. Complete schedule online and order tickets: www.gettysburgreenactment.com. Or call 717-338-1525.

Anniversary activities at the Gettysburg National Military Park, PA. Special walks and

talks. Details: www.nps.gov/gett or 717-334-1124 extension 422.

July 1-4

Special events "A Sacred Trust, Gettysburg Perspectives," a variety of living history, talks, book signings, music and more at the Rupp House (451 Baltimore St), headquarters for the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, PA. Free. More info: 717-334-7292 or www.friendsofgettysburg.org.

July 2

Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station (VA) battlefield. Begins 10 am at the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper) at 10 am. \$5. www.brandystationfoundation.com or 540-547-4106.

Living history, "Confederates Take Over the Shriver House - Two Killed!" Soldiers "occupy" the Shriver House, 309 Baltimore St. in Gettysburg, PA as they did during the battle. 4-9 pm. \$7.95 adults. 717-337-2800 or www.shriverhouse.com.

Independence Day salute at the Antietam (MD) National Battlefield. Music and fireworks program begins 7:30 pm. Visitor center, park roads closed at 3 pm. 301-432-5124 or www.nps.gov/anti.

July 2-3

Bus tour, DC/VA "Lee's Retreat," Petersburg to Appomattox with Ed Bearss. Leaves from the American History Building, 12th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC at 7 am July 2, returns 7:30 pm July 3. \$395 includes hotel. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-3275 or www.CivilWarStudies.org.

Living history, "Yankees in the South on Independence Day." Union occupation of the Fredericksburg, area. Military living history and ranger tours each day at Chatham part of the Fredericksburg National Park, VA. Concert 7 pm Sunday. Free. 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

Living history, "America's Picnic: Celebrating The Glorious Fourth," brass band music, Civil War reenactors at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, WV. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/hafe or 304-535-6029.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

July 3

Artillery demonstrations at Fort Washington Park, MD (I-495, exit 3A). 1, 2 and 3 pm. Free with park admission. 301-763-4600 or www.nps.gov/fowa.

Walking tour, "In the Footsteps of Soldiers, The Morning Battle," guided tour of the Turner's and Fox's Gap battlefields on South Mountain (near Boonsboro, MD). Meets at Turner's Gap (Alternate Route 40). 2 pm. Free. 301-432-8065.

July 3-4

VA 3-4 Living history, Civil War Encampment at Ratcliffe Park, corner of Sager Ave and Locust St. in Fairfax City, VA. Free. 703-385-8414.

July 4

Independence Day Deck Party at the USS Constellation anchored in Baltimore's (MD) Inner Harbor. Call for ticket info. www.constellation.org or 410-539-1797.

July 8

Special "History at Sunset" program, "Behind the Lines: Gaines's Mill," at the battlefield part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Free. 7 pm. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

Special Fredericksburg NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "Changing Face of War: Fighting in Fredericksburg (VA) Streets," meets downtown, Caroline and Lewis

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House was the home of Robert E. Lee and his family for thirty years and is uniquely associated with the Washington and Custis families. It is now preserved as a memorial to General Lee, who gained the respect of Americans in both the North and the South.

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Phone
703-235-1530

Web Site
<http://www.nps.gov/arho>

The Spectacle online
<http://www.nps.gov/arho/tour/spectacle.html>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Area Special Events (continued)

streets. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

July 9

Special event, Remembrance Ceremony for all the National Guard units that fought in the 1864 Battle of Fort Stevens, DC (now in Rock Creek Park). Event begins at the fort and concludes at the nearby Battleground National Cemetery. 2-2:30 pm. Free. 202-408-5887 or jhall@ngaus.org.

Bus tour, "The Lincoln Assassination: Behind the Scenes," includes stops at Surratt's Boarding House, Kirkwood House, lunch at Fort McNair and more, Leaves from Air and Space Museum, corner Fourth and Independence, Wash. DC at 8:45 am. \$131. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-3275 or www.CivilWarStudies.org.

Special program, "Medicine in the Age of Sail," at the USS Constellation anchored in Baltimore's (MD) Inner Harbor. 2 pm. Free with admission. www.constellation.org or 410-539-1797.

July 9-10

Reenactment, the Battle of Rich Mountain near Beverly, WV. Details: 304-637-RICH or www.richmountain.org.

Living history, "Federal Artillery Demonstration," at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA. Noon-5 pm. Free with admission. 717-260-1861 or www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Living history encampments at Spangler's Spring and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history and encampment at Union Mills Homestead north of Westminster, MD. Military and civilian demonstrations, food, music and more. 10 am-4 pm. Free. www.carr.org/carroll/tourism/un-mills.htm or 410-848-2288.

Living history anniversary weekend, "A Soldier's Life On Campaign,"

demonstrations, talks, music and more at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, MD. Free. 301-662-3515 or www.nps.gov/mono.

Anniversary living history and ranger programs at Malvern Hill, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Special ranger-led walking tour of the newly acquired part of the battlefield Sunday at 3 pm. Free. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

July 10

Walking tour, "The Lincoln Assassination," two-hour tour begins at the Jackson statue, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC. 11 am. \$15. Reservations not necessary. 301-294-9514 or info@dcsightseeing.com.

July 14

Lecture, "Mourning is Women's Work," at the Blandford Cemetery visitor center in Petersburg, VA. 7 pm. Free. 804-732-3531 extension 217.

July 15

Special "History at Sunset" program, "Frozen in Time: Fort Brady in Photographs," at the site part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Free. 7 pm. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

Special Fredericksburg (VA) NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "Sunset at Saunders Field," meets at Hill-Ewell Drive at Route 20 on the Wilderness battlefield. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

July 15-17

Reenactment, "The Battle of Laurel Hill," in Bellington, WV, includes military demonstrations, reenactment of train robbery, church service music and battle reenactment Sunday afternoon. More info: www.battleoflaurelhill.org or 304-823-2557.

July 16

Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10 am at

the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper, VA) at 10 am. \$5. www.brandystationfoundation.com or 540-547-4106.

Bus tour, "Tears and Ashes: The Brethren and Mennonite Life During the Civil War," covers sites in Harrisonburg, VA area of the Shenandoah Valley. Reservations required. Details: www.vbmhc.org or 540-438-1275.

Special living history tours of Fort Ward in Alexandria, VA. 10 am and 2 pm. Comfortable shoes and water bottles recommended. Free. 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org.

Bus tour, "Siege of Petersburg," leaves from Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News, VA. 8 am-5 pm. \$45. Reservations. 757-888-3371.

July 16-17

Civil War Days at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD. Living history encampment, demonstrations. 10 am-4:30 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Concert at 11 am and 3 pm Saturday. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/fomc or 410-962-4290.

Living history, "Giving Aid and Comfort: Medical and Relief Work During the Civil War," at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, WV. Free with admission. 304-535-6029 or www.nps.gov/hafe.

Bus tour, DC/VA "The Civil War's Peninsula Campaign," with Ed Bearss. Leaves from the American History Building, 12th and Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC at 7:30 am July 16, returns 7 pm July 17. \$416 includes hotel. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-3275 or www.CivilWarStudies.org.

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Pitzer Woods and Spangler's Spring, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

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Area Special Events (continued)

July 17

Walking tour, "Monument Avenue... Its Heros, Homes and Residents!" meets at the Lee Monument in Richmond, VA. 2-4 pm. \$7. www.richmondhistorycenter.com or 804-649-0711.

Special program, "The Ghosts of Chickamauga: A Civil War Veteran Remembers," dramatic presentation at Lee Hall in Newport News, VA. 2 pm. \$15. Reservations required. 757-888-3371 or www.leehall.org.

July 20

Book signing, Ann Blackman signs "Wild Rose: Civil War Spy," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA. Noon. 804-649-1861 or www.moc.org.

July 22

Special Fredericksburg NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "Heroes and Homefolk: A Walk Through Fredericksburg's City and Confederate Cemeteries" meets at cemetery entrance, end of Amelia Street in Fredericksburg, VA. 7-8:30 pm. Free. 540-373-6122 or www.nps.gov/frsp.

Special "History at Sunset" program, "The War Through Their Eyes," at the Fort Harrison cabin, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Free. 7 pm. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

July 22-24

Reenactment, "Hunter's Retreat: The Battle at Liberty" in Bedford. The battle between Jubal Early and David Hunter recreated on the historic ground. Other activities include period music and wedding, walking tours, seminars and more. Free for reenactment spectators. Some fees for indoor programs. More info: www.centertownbedford.com or 866-586-2148.

July 23

Living history, anniversary event at the Kernstown battlefield south of Winchester, VA just off Route 11. Includes encampment, living history and tours. 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Details: www.kernstownbattle.org.

Lecture, "Freedom Rising," part of the Manassas (VA) Museum's Espionage Speaker Series. \$5. Details: 703-368-1873 or www.manassasmuseum.org.

Bus tour DC/MD, "Booth's Escape Route," led by Ed Bearss, traces the assassin's route into Maryland and Virginia. Leaves from Air and Space Museum, corner Fourth and Independence, Washington, DC at 8 am. \$142. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. www.CivilWarStudies.org or 202-786-3275.

July 23-24

Living history encampments at the Pennsylvania Memorial, Spangler's Spring and the Cylcorama Center, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Civil War Weekend at the Manassas (VA) Museum, military encampment, demonstrations and more on the lawn. www.manassasmuseum.org or 703-368-1873.

Living history encampment and demonstrations at the Leesylvania State Park, VA. Free with park fee. 10 am-4 pm. 703-583-6904.

Living history and other programs commemorating the anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield, VA. Free with park fee. 703-361-1339 or www.nps.gov/mana.

Living history, Civil War Weekend at Sully, 1794 home located north of the intersection of Routes 50 and 28 in Fairfax County, VA. Encampment with civilian and military demonstrations. Skirmishes each day. 10 am-5 pm. \$6 includes house tour. 703-437-1794.

Living history, "The 27th Virginia Infantry," demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield, MD at 11 am, 2 and 4 pm Saturday; 11 am and 2 pm Sunday. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or

301-432-5124

July 24

Bus tour DC/VA, "Civil War in Culpeper and Orange Counties," covers battlefields at Cedar Mountain, Mine Run and more. Led by Ed Bearss. Leaves from Air and Space Museum, corner Fourth and Independence, Washington, DC at 8 am. \$135. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-3275 or www.CivilWarStudies.org.

July 25

Lecture "Surrender at Appomattox Court House: The End of the Civil War," by Ed Bearss at the Herndon (VA) Middle School Auditorium, 901 Locust St. in Herndon. 7 pm. \$20. www.CivilWarStudies.org or 202-786-3275.

July 27-31

Seminar and tours, "In the Footsteps of the Killer Angels: Hidden Gettysburg," leaders include Ed Bearss, James McPherson. Based in Chambersburg, PA. Details: 717-264-7101 or email chaden@chambersburg.org.

July 29

Special Fredericksburg NPS "History at Sunset" tour, "The Haunted Woods: Voices of Hazel Grove and Fairview" meets at Stop 9 on the Chancellorsville (VA) battlefield. 7-8:30 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/frsp or 540-373-6122

Special "History at Sunset" program, "Weapons of War," at the Cold Harbor Battlefield, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, VA. Free. 7 pm. 804-226-1981 or www.nps.gov/rich.

July 30

Bus tour, DC/VA "Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War," led by Wilson Greene. Leaves from Air and Space Museum, corner Fourth and Independence, Washington, DC at 8 am. \$139. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Associates. 202-786-3275 or www.CivilWarStudies.org.

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Area Special Events (continued)

Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10 am at the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper, VA) at 10 am. \$5. www.brandystationfoundation.com or 540-547-4106.

Special living history tours of Fort Ward in Alexandria, VA. 10 am and 2 pm. Comfortable shoes and water bottles recommended. Free. 703-838-4848 or www.fortward.org.

July 30-31

Living history, “Confederate Infantry,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg,

PA. Noon-5 pm. Free with admission. www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org or 717-260-1861.

Living history Spangler’s Spring, Gettysburg National Park, PA. Free. 717-338-9114 or www.nps.gov/gett.

Living history, “Confederate Infantry Weekend,” demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield, MD at 11 am, 2 and 4 pm Saturday; 11 am and 2 pm. Sunday. Free with admission. www.nps.gov/anti or 301-432-5124.

Artillery living history and demonstrations at Washington Monument State Park (South Mountain) near Boonsboro, MD. Demos Saturday at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm; Sunday at 11 am and 1 pm. Free. 301-432-8065.

July 31

Walking tour, “The Lincoln Assassination,” two-hour tour begins at the Jackson statue, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC. 11 am. \$15. Reservations not necessary. 301-294-9514 or info@dcsightseeing.com.

From the Office Down the Hall (continued from page 1)

forms the basis of Quantum Mechanics. Mere happenstance? I think not.

This year, we celebrate Independence Day at Arlington House by hosting a special event on July 1st with the Arlington County Sister City Committee. The city/county of Arlington is now closely connected as a “sister city” with Rhemes, France and will toast this relationship (Rhemes is famous for Champagne) at Arlington House, the namesake of the county. This seems only too fitting, as it was in July, 1826 that Custis published an account of his meeting (that almost certainly involved a toast or two) with the Marquis de Lafayette who, of course, hails from somewhere south of Rhemes.

Either way, the Fourth of July has always been a big day at Arlington House, even if—coincidentally—you happen to be on a train in Oregon.

Kendell Thompson
Site Manager
Arlington House,
The Robert E. Lee Memorial



The cover on the well has been replaced. The work was done by Jim Oldham, carpenter for GWMP. Jim and John Stefaniak replaced the steps on the portico last year.

History Happenings

How do I love thee? Let me Count the ways.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning
c.1845-1846

Someone recently commented that “no one loves Arlington like Ann Fuqua and Agnes Mullins did.” I have often heard this comment during the years I’ve worked at Arlington House. But what does “loving Arlington” really mean? Certainly Ann and Agnes demonstrated a passionate commitment to the house and were vocal champions of what they perceived to be best for the site. Yet love that is expressed more subtly is just as deep. Men often express their affection for one another with a handshake instead of a hug, but this does not diminish the intensity of their feelings.

In recent years, many developments have taken place behind the scenes “to build up old Arlington.” These projects represent thousands of hours of hard work and demonstrate a steadfast devotion to the site. Many of these projects were quite labor intensive and yet were carried out quietly by those who feel, as Lee himself stated, “it matters not who is benefited by our labours so *our* part is done.” Consider the following and you’ll see that Arlington is as deeply loved now as in the past.

- Efforts are underway to have the piano restored so that it may be played once again
- A hardworking cadre of kitchen garden volunteers has been organized to recreate this important landscape feature
- School programs have been expanded from a single program for elementary students to innovative learning opportunities for high school, middle school, and performing arts students
- A tour on religious life has been developed to educate visitors about this very important aspect of everyday life at Arlington
- A detailed website was created and is routinely updated so that those who cannot physically visit can still “tour” Arlington House and learn about its occupants and

history (www.nps.gov/arho)

- A high school internship program was created to give students the opportunity to experience working at a national historic site
- Several very important objects have been conserved, including the Benson Lossing print, sofa, and Mr. Custis’ violin (will be played at 2005 open house)
- Study of fire suppression systems is underway, so that in the event of a fire Arlington House can be saved for future generations to enjoy
- The site library has been organized, updated, and made available to staff and volunteers to facilitate learning about Arlington’s fascinating past
- Partnerships have been established with the Arlington Historical Society, Black Heritage Museum, and Historic Round Table of Arlington to educate our neighbors about the mansion’s past and to help preserve local history
- Yearly articles are published in *Arlington Historical Magazine* to educate the local community about little-known aspects of the site’s history
- The volunteer newsletter was created to share information and site developments with those who generously donate their time
- The slave quarters have been the subject of months of study, resulting in a Historic Structures Report that will guide the future restoration of the buildings and allow for the most accurate presentation possible
- Research files on African American history were created to increase our knowledge of this component of the Arlington story
- A Collections Management Plan has been developed to improve the care and preservation of the collection
- New interpretive programs, such as Lee’s Great Decision, have been created to provide visitors with an increased appreciation for the significant role Arlington House has played in our nation’s past
- Murray Nelligan’s dissertation was edited and published so as to be available to the public (second printing is scheduled for October, 2005)
- Two exhibits have been installed in the

slave quarters to provide visitors with information on the Arlington slaves as well as the quarters

- The tree stump exhibit was developed to underscore the importance of the ravine and woods
- A new roof was installed on the museum to preserve the potting shed and the museum exhibits
- The rotting wooden steps of the portico were replaced with specially treated wood that recreate the historic appearance
- The site brochure was rewritten to include actual quotes from the Lee family as well as additional information on Lee, family life, religion, women’s and slaves’ roles, and childhood
- An interpretive trail; is being developed for the ravine to safeguard this important historic feature of the landscape
- Last but not least, many wonderful “new” volunteers have joined the VIP program and have dedicated thousands of hours of service

Congratulations to Charlotte Needham, the winner of the June trivia contest. The answer is: “I felt as bold as a sheep.”

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please contact Delphine Gross no later than the 20th of each month with availability dates and times to be posted the following month (Please call by July 20th with August information). Even if you are a regularly scheduled VIP please contact Delphine to confirm your availability. Again, the contact number is (703) 235-1530 ext. 227. Please leave the dates and times you are available on the voice mail. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This recipe for Queen's Cake was printed in *Miss Beecher's Domestic Receipt Book*, first published in 1850. This book was written by Catherine Esther Beecher, the famous American educational reformer. Ms. Beecher was one of the earliest supporters of education for women, as she believed it would help prepare them for homemaking.

She wrote several books on education, domestic economy, women's health, and calisthenics. The recipe below is one of the most workable of many various "Queen's Cake" recipes. Food historian Karen Hess notes that they are all descendants of "great cakes" whose origins lie in the depths of time, made for such events as the coronation of kings or high religious holidays.

Queen's Cake

One pound of dried and sifted flour.
One pound of sugar.
Half a pound of butter.
Four eggs.
One nutmeg.
One gill of wine.
One gill of brandy.
One gill of thin cream.
One pound of fruit.

Rub the butter and sugar together. Beat separately the yolks and whites of the eggs. Mix all the ingredients, except the flour and fruit, which must be put in just before putting in the oven. This makes two three-pint pans full. It requires one hour and a half to bake.

Notes: A "gill" is half a cup, and one nutmeg, ground, is about a tablespoon.

Information for this article is from civilwarcookbooks.com and the website for the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame.

Contributed by Betty Soltani

More Volunteer Opportunities

Arlington House Woodlands Rescue —
Volunteers are needed to help eradicate invasive, exotic plants from the Arlington House Woodlands, an uncut vestige of forest George Washington Parke Custis set aside in 1802. Beginning at 9 a.m., work teams will remove invasive exotic plants. This event will be held the third Saturday of the month from April to October.

Saturday, July 16, 2005
Saturday, August 20, 2005

Saturday, September 17, 2005
Saturday, October 15, 2005

Garden Volunteer Work Days at Arlington House—Arlington House seeks Garden Clubs (and other groups) to co-sponsor garden work days at Arlington House. Garden Club work days will give Garden Clubs (and other groups) members an opportunity to volunteer their special skills, while enjoying the company and

companionship of friends, acquaintances, and other gardeners. It is essential that the volunteers be experienced gardeners with detailed knowledge of gardening and plants.

Garden Volunteer Work Days will be held on Saturday mornings. If your group is interested in volunteering, please call Delphine Gross at 703 235-1530 ext 227 or e-mail Delphine_Gross@nps.gov

July 2005

Arlington House VIP Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	2
3 J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	4	5	6 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	7 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	8 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	9 Vanna Lewis 10:00-4:30
10 J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	11	12 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	13 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	14 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	15 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	16 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30
17 J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	18	19 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	20 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	21 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	22 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	23 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30
24 J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30	25	26 Kathie Lipovac 12:30-4:30	27 Arlene Riley 2:00-4:00	28 Walter DeGroot 9:30-11:30 Charlotte Needham and Elaine Street 10:30-1:00	29 Joan Cashell 9:30-11:30 Amanda Bennett 1:00-4:00	30 Marmie Edwards 10:00-4:30
31 J.B. McCraw 9:30-1:30 Jim Pearson 12:30-4:30						

If you are available to volunteer, but are not on the calendar please call Delphine so you can be added to the schedule.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
c/o George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

<<Name>>
<<Address>>
<<CityStateZip>>

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Spectacle is a monthly newsletter for the volunteers of Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial.

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Comments? Write to:

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Volunteers Needed

The roster of active volunteers is in dire need of additional names! If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks please refer them to Delphine Gross, Volunteer Coordinator (703) 235-1530 ext 227.

